Assistance for SAIL

1941. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount approved by the Cabinet as assistance for ailing SAIL;

(b) how the assistance will be utilised; and

(c) the phased programme for upgrading steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) No cash assistance to SAIL has been approved by the Government. However, under the financial cum business restructuring package for SAIL, Government has, *inter-alia* approved the following package:

(i) Financial Restructuring of SAIL by waiving of loans advanced to it from Steel Development Fund to value of Rs. 5073 core and Rs. 381 crore from the Govt. of India.

(ii) Provision of Government guarantees with 50% interest subsidy for loan and interest thereon of Rs. 1500 crore to be raised by SAIL from the market to finance reduction in manpower through Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

(iii) Provision of Government guarantee for loan and interest thereon of Rs. 1500 crore including Rs. 500 crore already agreed to be raised by SAIL from the market primarily for meeting repayment obligation on past loans during 1999-2000.

Government has also directed SAIL to undertake business restructuring simultaneously.

(c) Financial and business restructuring package of SAIL does not envisage upgrading of its steel plants.

Implementation of Bhuria Committee recommendations

1942. SHRI SANATAN BISI: will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the recommendations of the Bhuria Committee are being implemented; and

(b) if so, what are the achievements in the field of health care and literacy?